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INFO RUEHXR/RWANDA COLLECTIVE

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SUBJECT: EASTERN DRC NOTES - FEBRUARY 27

11. (U) The items contained in this report consist principally of spot information from various sources. This report is not exhaustive, nor can all the information contained therein be confirmed at this time.

Security Situation in North Kivu

- 12. (SBU) According to a MONUC source, DRC joint operation commander General John Numbi told MONUC SRSG Alan Doss that the operation had left the FDLR "in disarray." Numbi said the command and control structure of the FDLR has been disrupted and that the FDLR had been pushed out from urban centers and away from sources of revenue.
- 13. (SBU) MONUC reported tense conditions caused by FDLR pressure on the local population in Kyanau and Kirumba, North Kivu, and the FDLR deployment of reinforcements to Ngandu and Kidoti, South Kivu. MONUC estimates that 10% of the approximately 5000 Rwandans who have repatriated since the beginning of joint FARDC-RDF operations are FDLR combatants.
- ¶4. (SBU) MONUC identified three immediate areas for action in the wake of Rwandan troop withdrawal: the consolidation of areas previously cleared of FDLR; an increase the presence of the national police in the cleared areas; and the continuation of FARDC anti-FDLR operations in South Kivu, which MONUC estimates will require substantial MONUC support.

Integration

15. (SBU) A MONUC contact said CNDP integration is stalled and that progress to date was due to Rwandan pressure on CNDP. Another MONUC contact characterized the process as imperfect but "a political necessity." MONUC also reports approximately 2000 PARECO and Mai Mai militia in the Kivus are ready to begin integration into the FARDC.

Operation Lightning Thunder (OLT)

- 16. (SBU) A MONUC contact said the logistical challenge of the enormous area of operations is the primary obstacle to further success by anti-LTA forces. Our contact cited the MONUC need for additional helicopter assets to carry out the civilian protection mandate.
- 17. (SBU) Echoing reports from other NGO sources, MONUC noted the continued exhibition of discipline by FARDC and Republican Guard units supporting OLT in Haut Uele. The uncharacteristic discipline may be linked to the MONUC provision of housing, food, and medical care to the DRC units, according to MONUC.